

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08242 231415Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 IO-10 /072 W

----- 008587

R 231752Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9390

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8242

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION RALLY IN DELHI

REF: NEW DELHI 8182

1. THE FOUR-PARTY PEOPLES ("JANATA") FRONT, ALONG WITH THE SIKH "AKALI DAL" PARTY, STAGED AN IMPRESSIVE RALLY OF THEIR OWN IN NEW DELHI ON JUNE 22. WE ESTIMATE THAT OVER 100,000 ATTENDED, DESPITE INTERMITTENT RAINFALL THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND THE FRONT'S LACK OF SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSETS (WHICH INCLUDED A GOOD PART OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM) THAT CONGRESS WAS ABLE TO CALL ON FOR JUNE 20 RALLY. THE CROWD WAS RESPONSIVE, LARGELY URBAN, FROM DELHI AND ITS ENVIRONS. J.P. NARAYAN MISSED THE RALLY WHEN HIS PATNA-DELHI FLIGHT WAS CANCELLED DUE TO BAD WEATHER. HE ARRIVED EARLY JUNE 23 AND IS NOW CLOSETED IN A ROUND OF TALKS WITH PEOPLES FRONT LEADERS.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 08242 231415Z

2. EACH ONE OF THE HALF-DOZEN OPPOSITION LEADERS WHO ADDRESSED THE JUNE 20 RALLY BITTERLY ATTACKED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HER FAILURE TO RESIGN IN THE FACE OF THE ALLAHABAD JUDGMENT. MOST REFERRED TO THE COURT'S REFERENCES IN ITS JUDGMENT TO ITS INABILITY TO ACCEPT SOME OF MRS. GANDHI'S PERSONAL TESTIMONY TO REBUT CONGRESS ARGUMENTS THAT THE COURT'S FINDINGS AGAINST MRS. GANDHI WERE TECHNICAL AND NOT MORAL IN NATURE.

3. IN THEIR SPEECHES, CONGRESS (O) LEADERS ASHOKA MEHTA AND MORARJI DESAI SUGGESTED THAT THE OPPOSITION IS PLANNING TO LAUNCH A COUNTRY-WIDE GANDHIAN TYPE, NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT TO FORCE MRS. GANDHI TO STEP DOWN. MORARJI DESAI ANNOUNCED THAT THE AGITATION WOULD ESCHEW VIOLENCE. AT ONE POINT IN HIS REMARKS, DESAI SILENCED A SMALL BUT VOCAL SECTION OF HIS AUDIENCE CHANTING, "DEATH TO MRS. GANDHI," BY SCOLDING THAT "WE DO NOT DESIRE THAT ANY ILL SHOULD BEFALL MRS. GANDHI, BUT SHE MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO LOWER THE PRESTIGE OF THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP AND THE COUNTRY BY CONTINUING IN OFFICE."

4. THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVES OF THE FIVE PARTIES SPONSORING THE RALLY APPOINTED A TEN-MEMBER "PROGRAM COMMITTEE" OVER THE WEEK-END TO FORMULATE OPPOSITION STRATEGY FOR THE UPCOMING MONTHS.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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